

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 77

By Windle

A RESOLUTION to encourage the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability to develop options for providing dental care to senior citizens.

WHEREAS, access to dental care is a need of many Tennesseans, but it is a particular need of many vulnerable older Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens in this State may need dental care, but they cannot look to Medicare and Medicaid to provide most of the dental care that they need, as most dental care is not a benefit covered by either program; and

WHEREAS, senior Tennesseans of limited resources are in need of an innovative program that will cover this gap in access to the dental care that they need; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability is uniquely well suited by virtue of its statutory charge in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-2-102, to “provide a comprehensive and coordinated service system for the state’s aging population,” to bring interested parties together to develop policy options for the General Assembly and the Governor to consider in order to expand access to dental care to elderly Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Aging and Disability is in a position to consult with the Board of Dentistry, the Tennessee Department of Health, local health departments, area Agencies on Aging and Disability, counties, and other interested parties in order to develop options for expanding dental care to senior citizens in this State; and

WHEREAS, a primary goal of these options would be to develop a system for delivering dental care to senior citizens in this State at reduced rates that could rely on a mixture of State funds and local matching funds for financing; and

WHEREAS, the need for these dental services for Tennessee's senior citizens is pressing; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability is encouraged to undertake its best efforts to bring together interested parties to develop a system for delivering dental care to senior citizens in this State at reduced rates that relies on a mixture of State funds and local matching funds for financing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability.